

WINTER STORM UPDATE FROM DESPP / DEMHS AT 1:00 PM

Changes Since Previous Forecast...

Less Snow Expected East of the Connecticut River...

STATUS OF THE STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER - ACTIVATED

At 1:00 PM radar and surface reports indicated that moderate wet snow is occurring across most of Western CT including the Northern Half of Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Warmer air aloft is changing the wet snow in Eastern CT over to sleet and rain in most towns. The snow is sticking to many roads in Western CT at this time and travel conditions are beginning to deteriorate on most roads. Temperatures have fallen into the low 30's inland and into the mid to upper 30's along to the coast.

This Afternoon...As the snowfall intensity increases road conditions at most elevations along and to the Northwest of the I-84 and I-91 Corridors is expected to deteriorate during the early afternoon with more rapid deterioration expected in the higher elevations. A rain / sleet line is now forecast to form South and East of the I-84 / I-91 Corridor. This sleet line is forecast to move into Northern CT as well as the Danbury area over the next several hours. The sleet line may get as far as the Torrington Area but is not expected to get all the way into the NW Hills. Northwest of this line heavy snow is expected thru much of the afternoon. Along the I-84 Corridor sleet and snow is expected with several inches of accumulation which may make the roads very slick. The impact on the afternoon rush hour is currently expected to range from minor along the coast and in Southeastern CT, minor to moderate in valley locations and moderate to major in the highest elevations of the Northwest Hills. Many roads in North Central and Western CT are expected to be slush or snow/sleet covered by 4:00 PM.

This Evening...The mixed precipitation in Central CT is expected to change back to wet snow from West to East this evening with some additional accumulation before the snow tapers off between 9:00 - 11:00 PM. Total snowfall is forecast to range from little or no accumulation in South Central CT and Southeastern CT, 2 - 3" in Southwestern CT, 3 - 6 in the Central Valley's, and 8 - 14" in the Northwest Hills. The amount of accumulation will depend greatly on elevation with locations above 500 feet West of the Connecticut River receiving much more accumulation than the valleys and hilltops above 1,000 feet receiving the greatest amounts. Roadways are expected to receive about half the accumulation of the grassy areas in most towns. North winds during the storm may cause some power outages both at the SE Coast and where the wet snow weighs down on tree limbs in North Central and Western CT. North winds are forecast to be sustained at 15 MPH with gusts to 35 MPH in most towns and up to 50 MPH along the Southeast coast. No significant coastal flooding is expected. The overall impact of this event is expected to be moderate (possibly major in the NW Hills) for travel and minor for power outages.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will continue to monitor the latest forecasts and will send out another update at 3:00 PM this afternoon.